urban and industrial waste where assistance is provided for setting up projects for recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes. The scheme is applicable to both private as well as public sector entrepreneurs and organisations as well as Non-Governmental Organizations.

Integrated Forests Protection Scheme to increase forest cover

1129. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated an Integrated Forests Protection Scheme to increase forest cover in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed for afforestation in Ninth Five Year Plan have been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) what target has been fixed for forest cover in Tenth Plan period; and

(f) the measures to be adopted to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) An Integrated Forests Protection Scheme (IFPS) has been formulated in the Tenth Plan with the basic objective to protect the existing forests. An outlay of Rs. 445 crores has been provided in Tenth Five Year Plan to provide financial assistance for various activities related to forest protection, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest boundaries, etc.

(c) and (d) Against a target of 674919 ha. an area of 539346 ha. has been achieved during Ninth Five Year Plan. The achievement has been commensurate with the financial assistance provided to the State.

(e) As per the targets set by the Planning Commission, 25% of the geographical area of the country has to be brought under forest and tree cover by the end of Tenth Plan.

(f) Consultations have been held with the State Governments, Research and Development Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations

and Central Government Ministries to adopt suitable technical, legal, fiscal and administrative measures to achieve the target.

Joint Forest Management Programme

†1130. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Joint Forest Management Programme for conservation and growth of the forests in the country;

(b) if so, whether any targets have also been set therefor; and

(c) if so, the details of the targets and the total amount likely to be spent to achieve these targets?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme is already under implementation in the country since 1990 with the Joint Forest Management Resolution adopted by Government. All the States have also adopted the resolution to this affect and are implementing this programme in their respective States. As on 10.9.2003, a total 84632 Joint Forest Management Committees have been formed in various States and 17.33 million ha. forest area ha. been covered under the Joint Forest Management Programme, so far.

(b) and (c) Though no specific targets have been fixed but the States Governments have been advised to create Joint Forest Management Committees in all the remaining villages in the State. Under the National Afforestation Programme of Government, a provision of Rs. 1140 crore has been kept for the Tenth Five Year Plan for implementing the afforestation activities with the active involvement of JFM Committees through the mechanism of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs). FDAs are the federation of the JFM Committees.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.